

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Texas Workforce Commission Supports Career Pathway Preparation for 620 Texans Through Accelerate TEXAS** *TWC awards education grants to four Texas colleges*

AUSTIN – Teaming up with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is funding career pathway programs at four Texas colleges that will enable 620 Texas adults to gain industry-recognized certifications for in-demand occupations. TWC’s Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program and THECB support the state’s Accelerate TEXAS initiative which aims to integrate basic skills with career and technical pathways to help adult students quickly acquire skills and certificates in high demand occupations. The grants were awarded to South Texas College, Alamo Colleges, Lone Star College and Trinity Valley Community College.

“The Texas Workforce Commission is proud to collaborate with THECB on the Accelerate TEXAS initiative to provide adult learners with opportunities to gain valuable skills and enter high-demand careers,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “Through integrated, innovative models like these, local partners collaborate to improve the literacy and workforce skills of adults across the state, while helping maintain the competitive workforce necessary for continued economic prosperity in Texas.”

Working in conjunction with employers, workforce development boards, adult education providers and community colleges, TWC is providing \$1.9 million in grant funding to support this expansion of AEL and Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs. The project is aimed at increasing the employment prospects of Texans who require both basic and technical skills to enter or advance in the workforce.

“TWC’s AEL programs and grants provide innovative opportunities for workers,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce.”

The Accelerate TEXAS program initiatives support the state’s ambitious 60x30 goal that at least 60 percent of Texans aged 25 to 34 will have a post-secondary degree or recognized certification by 2030. TWC supports this effort through occupation and skills training programs in addition to its integrated AEL services.

“With so much collaboration from various community entities, these AEL programs will assist in credentialing skilled workers across Texas.” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “These customized training programs will continue to keep our Texas businesses competitive.”

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TWC has awarded funding for the following Accelerate Texas projects:

**South Texas College (STC):** STC was awarded \$ 672,021 for 240 participants to enroll in an integrated education and training model for health information management clerk, pipe welding, emergency care attendant or pharmacy technician skills training. STC will work directly with Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley, Region One Education Service Center, Texas A&M University High School Equivalency Program (HEP), University of Texas-Pan American HEP, Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center, and Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement. Employers participating in the program are Texas Oncology, Southern Steele Fabricators, Mission Police Department and Swift Transportation.

**Lone Star College (LSC):** LSC was awarded \$386,838 for 50 under-employed adults with limited English proficiency to participate in an integrated education and training model for dental assisting, machining, welding and patient care technician job skills training. LSC will work directly with Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast for child care assistance, job placement and resume writing classes. Northwest Assistance Ministries will provide classroom space and Assistance League of Montgomery County and JP Morgan Chase will donate tuition assistance for qualified applicants.

**Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC):** TVCC was awarded \$164,841 for educationally disadvantaged, unemployed and under-employed adults living in the Workforce Development East Texas (East Texas) area. The project will focus on 30 individuals being enrolled towards a career pathway employment and post-secondary education program for Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or an industry certification for Welding. TVCC will work with Workforce Solutions East Texas for employment services and assistance with job interviews and referrals.

**Alamo Colleges:** Alamo Colleges was awarded \$654,536 for 300 participants who have not been successful in traditional educational programs to enroll in an integrated education and training model in the health care, computer support, office technology, logistics and building maintenance occupations. Alamo Colleges will work directly with Workforce Solutions Alamo, Education Service Center Region 20 and San Antonio ISD.

The Accelerate TEXAS initiative is geared towards helping adults acquire the skills needed to succeed in the workforce by increasing their basic skills and/or earning a high school equivalency and entering career training. High demand occupational certifications promote sustainable job growth throughout the state of Texas. To locate more information about TWC's AEL programs, visit [Adult Education and Literacy Program](#).

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